

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

No. 11-567V

Filed: July 8, 2014

(Not To Be Published)

SANDRA MCCRAY,

*

*

Petitioner,

*

*

v.

*

Stipulation; Attorney Fees and
Costs.

*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

*

*

Respondent.

*

Irene McLafferty, Esq., Messa and Associates, P.C., Philadelphia, PA for petitioner.
Debra Begley, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

Vowell, Chief Special Master:

In this case under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program,² I issued a decision on June 2, 2014, that awarded compensation pursuant to the parties' joint stipulation. On July 7, 2014, the parties filed a stipulation for attorney fees and costs. The stipulation indicates that after informal discussions, petitioner has amended her fee request to an amount that respondent does not object. Additionally, pursuant to General Order #9, the stipulation notes that petitioner incurred no personal litigation costs.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), a party has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, that satisfies the criteria in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4)(B). Further, consistent with the rule requirement, a motion for redaction must include a proposed redacted decision. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within the requirements of that provision, I will delete such material from public access.

² The applicable statutory provisions defining the program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006).

I find that this petition was brought in good faith and that there existed a reasonable basis for the claim. Therefore, an award for fees and costs is appropriate, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(b) and (e)(1). Further, the proposed amount seems reasonable and appropriate.

Accordingly, I hereby award the total \$20,000.00³ in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner (Sandra McCray) and petitioner's counsel of record (Irene M. McLafferty of The Law Firm of Messa & Associates, P.C.) for petitioner's attorney fees and costs.

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Denise K. Vowell
Denise K. Vowell
Chief Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See *generally Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).